

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2020

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, we respectfully request that the House Appropriations Committee provide \$300 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. Strong funding levels for the ESG program is critical to prevent and address homelessness nationwide.

Over 360 urban counties, metropolitan cities, states, and territories rely on ESG funding to support a wide variety of activities. Funding under the ESG program is often used to support the first response to people facing a housing crisis, providing quick assistance that can prevent homelessness before a crisis point is reached, and engages people living on the streets, ensuring they have access to both safe and sanitary shelters as well as supportive services to improve their situations.

The activities allowed under ESG provide a unique opportunity for states and local communities to provide short-term homeless prevention assistance to individuals and families at imminent risk of losing their home due to eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs. Such activities provide a bridge for families unable to make ends meet in a given month to make sure an unexpected expense does not force them onto the streets. Strong funding levels for ESG will help stabilize more families at the brink of homelessness and ensure they do not need to enter the shelter system.

The ESG program also supports over 350,000 persons in emergency shelter each year¹ and improves the quality of existing emergency shelters so that those in need have access to safe and sanitary shelters. Funding can be used to help those in need quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. This includes emergency shelter for people in crisis and rapid re-housing to support time-limited permanent housing and stabilization services, including housing identification and rent and move-in assistance.

¹ https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CFO/documents/FY21_HUDCongressionalJustifications.pdf

ESG has proven to be a successful program to prevent and address homelessness. We respectfully request a \$10 million increase in funding for the program in FY 2021 to allow communities nationwide to build on this success in the new fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

FY 21 Support for Emergency Solutions Grant Program
List of Signatories

| |
|---------------------|
| Terri A. Sewell |
| John Garamendi |
| Mary Gay Scanlon |
| Mark Takano |
| Stephen F. Lynch |
| Mike Levin |
| Ben McAdams |
| Sylvia R. Garcia |
| Lizzie Fletcher |
| Ted W. Lieu |
| Frederica S. Wilson |
| Jamie Raskin |